

REMARKS

1. The Office Action has objected to Claims 26 and 27 because of a typographical error in line 2 where “a engagement” should be –an engagement-. Appropriate correction has been required. In response thereto, Application would direct the Examiner’s attention to the amendment of Claim 26 above to correct this typographical error. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 and 4 – 7 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The Office Action identifies a problem in the presentation of the open hook member and suggests that in line 7 “a retractable open hook member” be claimed and that in line 12 “said retractable open hook member” be claimed. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants would direct the Examiner’s attention to the amendments to Claim 1 above to revise the claim as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, as suggested by the Examiner, dependent claims 5 – 7 were also amended, along with line 10 of Claim 1, to refer to “said retractable open hook member”.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The Office Action has rejected Claim 1 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,338,136 (Hetchler) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,065,917 (Shambeau). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendments to independent Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 4, which has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

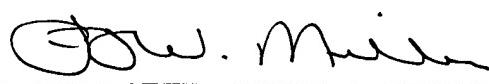
4. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability of Claims 4 – 7 and Claims 21 and 23 – 27, Applicants would have the Examiner note that Claim 4 has been canceled after being incorporated into amended independent Claim 1.

5. In summary, Claims 1, 5 – 7, and 26 have been amended, Claim 4 has been canceled, and Claims 1, 5 – 7, 21 and 23 - 27 remain in the application. Applicants request that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call Applicants' attorney, if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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